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09/727,842	11/30/2000	Francis James Canova JR.	PALM-3520 . US . P	3911

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EXAMINER

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Continuation of 5. does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: of the same reasons set forth in the last office action. Furthermore, Applicant argues that Flagg (USPN 6445378) does not teach layers that are coupled to each other and are connected along an external edge of the stock. Applicant also argues that Flagg does not teach movement of the flexible layers comprising a separation of a first flexible layer from a second flexible layer. However, Flagg teaches the use of layers(100, 102, 104) bonded together and the layer (104), which can be comprised of adhesive material or other material. See col. 6, lines 29-34 and 46-53. In addition Flagg teaches that a layer (108) may have any desired configuration pattern or shape and can form contact pads of any desired configuration pattern or shape (col. 11, lines 59-63). Flagg indicates that the computer mouse pad can be used to launch or initiate, control or run computer software applications (col. 1, lines 5-10). It would have been obvious to utilize Flagg's layers(104, 108) to obtain the desired coupling and separation of the layers.